

support. Meanwhile I would strongly urge upon my sisters the primary importance of a circumspect walk at all times, and would, in the Master's name, ask them to "go forward."

In musing thereon, the great high calling, the splendid opportunities and possibilities, and the far-reaching influence of the Nursing profession rise to my view. I am particularly struck with the force of Pilate's answer to the Jews respecting the inscription affixed to the cross which has, once and for ever, hallowed to us the wound-prints of the world's Redeemer: "What I have written I have written." On the spur then of this forcible inscription, I would ask each individual member of the noble profession of Nursing to aspire earnestly after a good penmanship, to write well; because when her life's work is once written upon others she cannot rub it out. "What I have written I have written."

Again, we should not close our eyes to the incontrovertible fact that, in addition to being servants of the suffering poor, we are, undoubtedly, servants of the public too; hence the seasonableness of the bugle-call to be up and doing, to lay hold of the splendid opportunities around us, and to make the most and best possible use of them. "And still this rule in my mind shall dwell—whatever I do I will do it well." Indeed, we should bring the best we have, *whatever* that is, to the work of God's world, and go our way straight to it, in simplicity and singleness of heart. Even in a case like this we need never despair; perseverance will overcome all difficulties. On the King's service, sent to prepare the place whither He Himself would come, until our work is done we shall remain invulnerable. "*The expectation of the poor shall not perish.*"

But what about our successes? Methinks I hear some sister say, "Not a word about it! We talk too much about victory, about what we have achieved. We will wait till we get to the Father's house, where the many mansions be, for our talk about these." During the interval I do not see the reason for wasting another moment in talking about our failures and successes; for truly there is plenty of trenching to be done yet. Should we not rather, like a wise army, endeavour to gradually and calmly, without making any noise, reconnoitre our true position, and see if we cannot adapt ourselves to it as it stands? While we are talking we are wasting the moments that are flying away.

Furthermore, there is a big talk nowadays about the emancipation of England, or the battle of the masses and the classes; but what about the practical side of the question? Might not judicious and thoroughly well-arranged and dovetailed district visitation do something here? Those who could not go themselves might help to send a deputy. "'Tis ours to bend the energies and consecrate the will."

Lately a very happy thought has occurred to me—viz., that all the district workers of to-day must needs surely be indebted to our gracious Sovereign for the impetus given to District Nursing by the dedication of £70,000 of the Women's Jubilee Offering to such a praiseworthy object. And should not our would-be noble profession feel equally grateful to "Our Princess"—H. R. H. Princess Christian—for the loan of her personal aid and practical sympathy as evinced in founding the B.N.A.? Verily! and all of my fellow-workers will, I feel sure, cordially unite with me in asking Heaven's choicest benedictions to attend the train of both royal mother and daughter now and for aye.

One closing word of application. Reader, I am talking to you. I want to ask you, on the very threshold of the year, what has been your Christianity up to this moment? What work have you been doing for Christ? If you would be a worker together with Him, you must share His sorrows and His difficulties.

It goes without saying that all have influence, all have a mission in life. Miss Catherine J. Wood has somewhat recently suggested that we should become "Missionaries of Health"; and this capital suggestion I do most heartily endorse, for with Chalmers I believe that "every man is

a missionary, now and for ever, for good or for evil, whether he designs it or not. He may be a blot, radiating his dark influence outward to the very circumference of society; or he may be a blessing, spreading benediction over the length and breadth of the world; but a blank he cannot be. There are no moral blanks, there are no neutral characters. We are either the sower, that sows and corrupts, or the light that splendidly illuminates, and the salt that silently operates; but being dead or alive every man speaks."

"Sculptors of life are we, as we stand  
With our lives uncarved before us,  
Waiting the time, when at God's command,  
Our life-dreams shall pass o'er us."

With kindest and best wishes for 1890 I will bid you, gentle reader, farewell! and subscribe myself, yours to serve,  
THEODORA.

#### INFLUENZA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—It may not be too late in the day to call your attention to a plan which has proved very efficacious in our hands for the prevention of influenza, the more so as the plan is one which lends itself to the preservation of health and the prevention of disease generally. Less adapted to domestic use, it is admirably suited for offices, factories, and the like. Briefly described, it consists in the use of some system of forced ventilation, the incoming air being filtered and warmed by the waste steam from the boiler. It may advantageously be saturated with some volatile and possibly fragrant antiseptic, such for instance as eucalyptia, pinol, &c. In our own offices the system is that known as the Sturtevant apparatus, and the results, apart from securing efficient ventilation and a proper provision of pure warm air at all times, have been singularly satisfactory in protecting our employes against attacks of the prevailing influenza, while in neighbouring unprotected offices and factories the employes have been down by the dozen. We are therefore glad to have the opportunity of bearing testimony to the simplicity and efficiency of the method. A comparative immunity from influenza has also been experienced where the antiseptics have been sprayed through the rooms or evaporated from blotting paper.—We are, yours faithfully, BURROUGHS, WELLCOME AND CO.  
Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., Jan. 22, 1890.

#### OPPOSITION TO REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—The following cutting is from the *Daily News*. I should like to know if any of the people whose names I see in a contemporary as opposed to the Registration of Nurses will devise any means whereby the nursing profession, and also the public, may be protected from this woman after she has served her five years' penal servitude.—I am, Sir, yours truly,  
PORTIA.

"Amelia Woollentine, a young woman who described herself as a Nurse, was tried at the South London Sessions yesterday for theft. According to the evidence, she had gained admission to charitable institutions, from which, a few days later, she decamped with property valued in one instance at £9, and in another at £18. She had also robbed people in furnished apartments and houses in which she had been employed. Sir P. Edlin sentenced her to five years' penal servitude."

[We respectfully commend our correspondent's practical suggestion to those who have permitted themselves to be led into what very truly may be termed an organised opposition, about which we shall probably before long have something more to say.—ED.]

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